

THE DISSOLUTION OF THE FELLOWSHIP

or May 23, 1423 (the uncertainty being, perhaps, due to an intentional mystification on the part of his followers), he died.¹ Strange, mysterious being to the last, it is most probable that he was not the mere perjurer and hypocrite of Catholic tradition ; it may well be that he really believed in his own claims, and held that, in the confusion and turmoil of the world, the truth abided in him alone; in himself, a gracious and loveable personality, until, rejected and assailed by all, the fierce Spanish blood flared up in his old age. His strenuous refusal to abdicate at the bidding of kings and universities had borne fruit in the liberation of the Church from the oppressive yoke of France. Unwittingly, Pedro de Luna had destroyed the power of the Giant, whom Dante had seen in the Earthly Paradise, dragging the transformed chariot of the Spouse from the Tree to which the mystical Griffin had bound it. Let us leave him thus, the man to whom Catherine had twice written in the precious blood as her " dearest father in Christ sweet Jesus," and ignore the deplorable sequel in which his followers strove to perpetuate the Schism after his death.

The prolonged struggle in which Catherine and he had borne their parts being now concluded, Stefano's one desire was to be free to give himself entirely to divine contemplation. At length, in 1421, ^{to} at his earnest entreaties, because of his old age, his infirmities, and many labours undertaken for the order," he was allowed to resign his office of prior of the Certosa of Pavia, it being decreed that all honour should be paid him in whatever convent he chose for residence. In spite of invitations from Pontignano, he chose to remain in the Certosa of Pavia, and there, on August 7, 1424, he passed away, with the names of Mary and Catherine upon his lips.²

When Tommaso Caffarini died in 1434, the last of Catherine's spiritual family had joined her again. But, already, the movement that she had initiated had come to an end, to be renewed half a century later, in another form and without success, by Fra

¹ Valois, IV. pp. 450-454.

² Earth. Senenais, *op. cit.*,
Lib. V. cap. 6
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